

**In the Claims**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method comprising:

requesting a block of telephone numbers from a number pool organization, wherein numbers in the requested block of telephone numbers are to be used by a receiving service provider as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider, wherein the number pool organization coordinates donation and allocation of blocks of telephone numbers for use by a plurality of service providers comprising the receiving service provider, and other service providers;

receiving the requested block of telephone numbers from the number pool organization, the received block of telephone numbers comprising a plurality of telephone numbers already in use by the other service providers and a plurality of telephone numbers not already in use by the other service providers;

retrieving from a database a list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use by the other service providers and therefore unavailable for use as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider; and

retrieving from a database, a location routing number of a switch of the receiving service provider associated with the plurality of telephone numbers not already in use by the other service providers and therefore available for use by the receiving service provider as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider.

1           2.     **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, comprising  
2 receiving the list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use by  
3 the other service providers and the location routing number from a single database.

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5           3.     **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising  
6 transmitting the list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use  
7 by the other service providers to a component of the receiving service provider.

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9           4.     **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the component  
10 comprises a billing system.

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12           5.     **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the component  
13 comprises a facility maintenance system.

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15           6.     **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising  
16 transmitting the location routing number of the switch associated with the plurality  
17 of telephone numbers not already in use by the other service providers to which  
18 the received block of numbers are associated to a component of the receiving  
19 service provider.

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21           7.     **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the component is a  
22 billing system.

1           8.     **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the component  
2 comprises a facility maintenance system.

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4           9.     **(Currently Amended)** A ~~system~~ service provider comprising:  
5                 an ~~interface~~ order management system for communicating between a  
6 number pooling authority and a plurality of further components of [a] the service  
7 provider, wherein the service provider is for requesting a block of telephone  
8 numbers to be used as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers  
9 for customers of the requesting service provider, wherein the number pool  
10 organization is for coordinating[es] donation and allocation of blocks of telephone  
11 numbers for use by a plurality of service providers, including comprising the  
12 requested service provider and other further service providers;

13                 wherein the plurality of further components of the service provider  
14 include a block administration center, a customer billing system, and a facility  
15 management system, and wherein the order management system is for updating the  
16 further components with information relating to telephone numbers that are received  
17 when the service provider receives the block of telephone numbers;

18                 ~~a database comprising a list of telephone numbers in the block of~~  
19 ~~telephone numbers received by the requesting service provider, the list comprising~~  
20 ~~the plurality of telephone numbers already in use by other service providers and~~  
21 ~~therefore unavailable for use as both telephone directory numbers and customer~~  
22 ~~identifiers for customers of the requesting by the service provider, wherein the order~~  
23 management system is for obtaining the list from a database containing the block of  
24 telephone numbers received by the service provider; and  
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1           ~~a database comprising~~ a location routing number of a switch ~~of the~~  
2   ~~requesting service provider~~ associated with the plurality of telephone numbers not  
3   already in use by other service providers and therefore available for use by the  
4   ~~requesting service provider~~ as both telephone directory numbers and customer  
5   ~~identifiers for customers of the requesting service provider in the block of~~  
6   ~~telephone numbers received by the requesting service provider, wherein the order~~  
7   management system is for obtaining the location routing number from a database  
8   containing the block of telephone numbers received by the service provider.  
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10           10. **(Currently Amended)** The system service provider of claim 9,  
11   ~~further comprising~~ wherein the order management system is for receiving the list  
12   of telephone numbers already in use by other service providers and the location  
13   routing number from a single database.  
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15           11. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium containing computer-  
16   readable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.  
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18           12. **(New)** The service provider of claim 9, wherein the order management  
19   system updates the plurality of further components of the service provider with the  
20   list of telephone numbers already in use by other service providers and the location  
21   routing number of the switch associated with the telephone numbers not already in  
22   use by other service providers.  
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1           13. (New)       In a system comprising a number portability  
2 administration center, a pooling administrator, and a competitive local exchange  
3 carrier, wherein the number portability administration center, the pooling  
4 administrator, and the competitive local exchange carrier are adapted to  
5 communicate with one another, and further comprising a service provider that  
6 communicates with the number portability administration center, wherein the  
7 service provider includes a local number portability gateway, a block  
8 administration center, a customer billing system, and a facility maintenance  
9 system,

10           the improvement comprising:

11           the local number portability gateway including an order management  
12 system component that is an interface between the number portability  
13 administration center and the local number portability gateway, the block  
14 administration center, the facility maintenance system customer billing system,  
15 and the facility maintenance system.

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